

Advanced vocabulary development

Ages
18+

GRE
✓

Word list 12

Group 1		Notes
Abysmal	very deep; very bad	.....
Approbation	approval [<i>opp. disapprobation</i>]	.....
Bent (<i>n</i>)	inclination; aptitude	.....
Cadge	get by begging	.....
Debacle	disaster	.....
Extemporize	speak without preparation or rehearsal [<i>extemporaneous (a)</i>]	.....
Incumbents	occupiers of a job or position	.....
Lambaste	attack verbally	.....
Noisome	disgusting	.....
Pastiche	work (usually artistic) which imitates, or is composed of parts taken from varied sources	.....

Group 2		Notes
Arboreal	living in trees; concerned with trees	.....
Centrifuge	device to separate substances by spinning them at high speed	.....
Cloistered	isolated	.....
Disabuse	make someone aware of an error in thinking	.....
Engendering	causing; bringing into being [<i>engender (v)</i>]	.....
Intemperate	excessive; immoderate [<i>intemperance (n)</i>]	.....
Lugubrious	sad; gloomy	.....
Nonplussed	confused	.....
Pedagogy	science of education; teaching	.....
Satiate	satisfy; fill completely [<i>satiable (a); satiation (n)</i>]	.....

Group 3		Notes
Artless	without effort; without trickery; simple	.....
Comeliness	beauty; prettiness [<i>comely (a)</i>]	.....
Doff	take off (esp. of a hat)	.....
Don	put on (esp. of clothes)	.....
Erudition	learning; scholarly knowledge [<i>erudite (a)</i>]	.....
Plaintive	sad; mournful	.....
Suborn	bribe	.....
Tendentious	dogmatic; biased	.....
Tortuous	indirect; winding	.....
Verbiage	excessive or meaningless wordiness	.....

Group 4		Notes
Atonement	making amends for sin or crime [<i>atone (v)</i>]	.....
Complaisance	flexibility; willingness to please [<i>complaisant (a)</i>]	.....
Daguerreotype	forerunner of the photograph	.....
Fawn	behave in a sycophantic way; grovel [<i>fawning (a)</i>]	.....
Gregariousness	sociability; liking for crowds [<i>gregarious (a)</i>]	.....
Nascent	emerging; newly formed	.....
Paeon	praise; tribute (esp. in song)	.....
Reproof	scolding; criticism [<i>reprove (v)</i>]	.....
Scurvy	1. disease due to lack of vitamin C; 2. contemptible; rascally	.....
Tutelary	serving as a guardian [<i>tutelage (n)</i>]	.....

Group 5		Notes
Abscission	cutting; process causing leaves to fall off	.....
Contentious	causing argument [<i>contention (n)</i> ; <i>contend (v)</i>]	.....
Debilitating	weakening [<i>debilitate (v)</i>]	.....
Foible	quirk; minor weakness	.....
Importune	beg; solicit [<i>importunate (a)</i>]	.....
Pertain	be relevant to [<i>pertinent (a)</i>]	.....
Slew	glut; excess	.....
Toady	sycophant; flatterer	.....
Torrid	hot and steamy	.....
Veracious	true [<i>veracity (n)</i>]	.....

Group 6		Notes
Asperity	using harsh or critical tone	.....
Blowhard	boastful person	.....
Disingenuous	naïve	.....
Evanescent	short-lived [<i>evanescence (n)</i>]	.....
Intangible	cannot be touched; abstract [<i>intangibility (n)</i>]	.....
Labile	changing rapidly; unstable	.....
Malapropism	use of similar sounding but incorrect word	.....
Posture (v)	to put on an act	.....
Proximate	immediate; nearest	.....
Pugnacious	aggressive, ready to fight [<i>pugnacity (n)</i>]	.....

Group 7		Notes
Foreshadowed	indicated a future event [<i>foreshadow (v)</i>]	.....
Gaucherie	awkwardness [<i>gauche (a)</i>]	.....
Heterodox	unorthodox	.....
Inscrutability	quality of being difficult to comprehend [<i>inscrutable (a)</i>]	.....
Limerick	short amusing poem	.....
Mannered	stylized; pretentious	.....
Pluck (n)	courage	.....
Sedulous	persevering; eager and thorough	.....
Syllogism	type of logical reasoning	.....
Vicissitude	unexpected change in fortune or circumstances	.....

Group 8		Notes
Acolyte	disciple; follower or attendant	.....
Admonitory	scolding [<i>admonition (n)</i>]	.....
Caprices	whimsies; fancies	.....
Cornucopia	symbol (horn filled with fruit etc.) denoting natural abundance	.....
Deferential	showing respect [<i>deference (n)</i> ; <i>defer (v)</i>]	.....
Intractability	stubbornness; resistance [<i>intractable (a)</i>]	.....
Luminary	eminent person	.....
Minion	underling; servant	.....
Undergird	support; strengthen	.....
Vitiate	weaken; sap energy	.....

Group 9		Notes
Coterie	clique; small group with common interests	.....
Denigrate	decry; criticize; belittle	.....
Empirical	found by experiment or practice	.....
Gainsay	contradict	.....
Hyperbole	exaggeration [<i>hyperbolic (a)</i>]	.....
Modest	1. bashful; unpretentious; 2. not excessive	.....
Prolixity	wordiness [<i>prolix (a)</i>]	.....
Rebus	puzzle in which pictures give clues	.....
Sere	withered; old	.....
Vulpine	like a fox [compare with <i>bovine</i> (cow-like); <i>porcine</i> (pig-like), etc.]	.....

Group 10		Notes
Corroborate	give supporting evidence [<i>corroboration (n)</i>]	.....
Exacerbated	made worse [<i>exacerbate (v)</i> ; <i>exacerbation (n)</i>]	.....
Exact (v)	to demand; extort	.....
Faddish	whimsical; following a fashion	.....
Hapless	unlucky	.....
Misconstrue	put a wrong interpretation on something	.....
Perennial	long-lasting	.....
Rent	torn (past participle of the verb <i>to rend</i>)	.....
Shard	fragment of pottery	.....
Xenophobe	person afraid of foreigners	.....